Retrenchment of contract Labourers in BALCO

2668. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new BALCO management have retrenched 2000 contract labourers after disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reemploy the said contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) It has been reported that there has been no change in the number of contract labourers employed in BALCO during the year ending June 2001, after disinvestment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upliftment of Agricultural Workers

2669. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindu dated 27th June under the caption New ILO safety standards for farm workers; and

(b)if so, what steps Government are taking to uplift the lot of agricultural workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Dangerous Machines (Regulation) Act, 1983 and the Insecticides Act, 1968 are already in place to ensure safety and health tc the farm workers. Further, the Government is implementing a number of Plan Schen'es like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) etc. to provide employment opportunities and improve the conditions of rural workers including agricultural workers. The Government has launched on 1st July, 2001, Krishi Shramik Suraksha Yojana-2001 specifically for agricultural workers. The main provisions of social security under the Scheme are: Life-cum-accident insurance, Money back, Pension and superannuation benefits.

Payment of Wages

† 2670. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contractors working for Government Departments pay less wages than the fixed minimum wages to their labourers;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.